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Measures to promote implementation of the international drug control treaties and to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, including corruption; and proposals for new strategies, methods and practical activities in addressing the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, with due regard to the gender perspective

Review of the international drug control regime: strengthening United Nations machinery for drug control

Letter dated 10 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Joint Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Andean Community on the occasion of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the world drug problem (see annex).

The Government of Colombia, in its capacity as Interim Secretariat of the Andean Community, would be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 10 and 11 of the twentieth special session.

(Signed) Julio **Londoño Paredes**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Joint Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Andean Community on the occasion of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the world drug problem, issued in New York on 10 June 1998

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries members of the Andean Community, meeting in New York on the occasion of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the world drug problem;

Reaffirm the unswerving commitment of their Governments to continue to promote the necessary measures to combat the world drug problem in all its aspects;

Recognize the importance of this session, which is being held 10 years after the adoption of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

Express their complete agreement with the contents of the Political Declaration of the special session in particular, which recognizes that the world drug problem is a shared responsibility requiring an integrated and balanced approach in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and particularly with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs of States, and human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Reaffirm their support for the United Nations and its drug-control organs and call for their strengthening, in the conviction that the world drug problem must be dealt with in a concerted manner in the appropriate multilateral forums;

Welcome the agreements reached on demand reduction, alternative development, substitution of illicit crops, control over the diversion of chemical precursors, control over the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors, control over money-laundering, and strengthening of judicial cooperation, and pledge to promote the necessary action at the national level to implement the agreed measures and strategies in each of these areas;

Concerned at the increasing consumption of both natural and synthetic drugs, particularly among adolescents and the young, call upon national authorities to strengthen and promote educational programmes aimed at preventing abuse of these substances, taking into account the measures enumerated in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction;

Also support the initiative to define lines of action for the full implementation of the principles contained in the Declaration, and pledge to participate actively in the meetings that the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme has called for this purpose;

Emphasize the importance of strengthening international cooperation for alternative development within policies aimed at reducing supply, with a view to reintegrating into legal economic activity the most vulnerable sectors of society that have turned to illicit crops as a means of subsistence, taking into account the contents of the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and Alternative Development;

Reaffirm their support for other initiatives to confront this scourge, in particular the establishment of a multilateral evaluation mechanism for the Americas, and pledge to promote efforts to achieve greater coordination among the regional, inter-American and world forums;

Support the establishment of suitable mechanisms to follow up the commitments made by the international community at this session of the General Assembly in order to combat the world drug problem in the next century.